

feel the right to it and so can enjoy it with a clear conscience. I have been almost ashamed of the fact that in spite of my concern and indignation over Stimson's defeat, I have been unable to keep from being thoroughly happy since election. Mrs. Roosevelt and I have been out here in our own home, with our books and pictures and bronzes, and big wood fires and horses to ride, and the knowledge that our children are doing well. I do not think that I have had such a pleasant five weeks for a great many years. In fact I know I have not.

"Now under these circumstances, if I consulted merely my own feelings, I would promptly announce that never under any circumstances would I consent to be President again. But I don't think that this would be right. I think the chances are a hundred to one that I never shall be President again—perhaps a thousand to one. But however improbable, it is possible that circumstances might arise when it would be unpatriotic of me, when it would represent going back on my principles and my friends, to refuse to be President. Moreover, what is much more likely, the threat of my possible Presidency may influence for good some worthy people who need just to be influenced!

"As regards myself, I think that the American people feel a little tired of me, a feeling with which I cordially sympathize ; for they cannot be expected as a whole to understand that my speeches and writings during the last six months have been due not in the least to a desire to speak and write,

but to the fact that I could not avoid doing so  
without shirk-  
ing what I regarded as my duty. Moreover I  
am certain  
that the American people would greatly resent  
any thought  
that I would want them to give me another job  
of any kind  
for my own sake. I shall never wittingly put  
myself in a  
position where they can believe this. I feel  
most strongly  
that I never again should take any public  
position unless  
it could be made perfectly clear that I was  
taking it not  
for my own sake, but because the people  
thought it would  
be to their advantage to have me do so."